



Paul R. LePage
Governor, State of Maine

Paul K. Vestal, Chair
Edwin P. Chester, Esq. Vice Chair

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES April 24, 2013

I. Roll Call:

Present: Ned Chester, Esq., Dr. Joe Fitzpatrick, Amber Heikkinen, Carla Knapp, Margaret Longworth, Pender Makin, Joan McDonald, Lisa Sandy, Sgt. Jonathan Shapiro, Barry Stoodley, Christine Thibeault, Esq., and Paul Vestal

Absent: Mark Boger, Richard Brown, Nickole DeMerritt, Dalene Dutton, Jim Foss, Jacinda Goodwin, Judge Charles Laverdiere, Randall Liberty, Tessa Mosher, Dan Nichols, Christine Theriault, Dr. Lindsey Tweed and Patrick Walsh

Staff: Kathryn McGloin, Juvenile Justice Specialist, Ryan Andersen, Compliance Monitor, Noël Bonam, DMC, Elaine Brann, Staff Assistant

Guests: Residents of Long Creek, Kayla McKenney, Alex Bouchie, and Page Nichols.

The JJAG Meeting was held at the Long Creek Youth Development Center. The meeting was called to order by Paul Vestal, JJAG Chair, at 9:10 A.M.

Jeff Merrill welcomed the JJAG members and gave a quick update of Long Creek. He spoke about the progress that has been made at the facility, school programs and sports.

Paul thanked the residents for agreeing to meet with the JJAG to answer questions. Paul gave a brief synopsis of the work of the JJAG, explained the reason for being here and asked for introductions.

Kathryn explained the purpose of the focus group and the group began with questions developed by the JJAG and approved by the Department.

After the focus group meeting and questions with the residents the JJAG meeting continued. Paul thanked the students and teacher from the Real School for attending the JJAG Meeting and asked for introductions. Paul asked for approval of the March 27th meeting minutes. Kathryn mentioned that there was a correction to the minutes and stated that Carla Knapp's statement had been inadvertently left out but was added to the minutes.

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II. Minutes:

The minutes for the March 27th, 2013 JJAG meeting were approved with one

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correction.

Motion: To approve the February 27, 2013 Minutes

Moved: Joan McDonald/Christine Thibeault/2nd

Action: Approved

III. Chair Report – Paul Vestal, Jr.:

Paul spoke very briefly about the 2014 finances and stated that he hadn't heard anything yet from the CJJ or OJJD. Kathryn stated that she is expecting a call from the CJJ and will let everyone know what information she receives.

Paul apologized to Carla Knapp for her concerns not being addressed at the last JJAG meeting and stated that Carla didn't get a chance to address her issue. Carla has prepared a concept paper which will be sent to all members. Discussion will be held at the May JJAG Meeting.

Joan McDonald also added that she would like to see the organization of a finance committee due to the budget changes and to just to see "where we're going." Kathryn agreed and stated that even though she has a great accountant, knows what needs to happen, and has the backup from the JJAG, she would like everyone to know what they are backing up.

IV. Compliance Monitor Report – Ryan Andersen:

Ryan stated that he will be visiting district courts. We haven't found any regulatory violations for this calendar year. The *Effective Police Interactions with Youth* training which was held on April 16th and 17th in collaboration with the Portland Police Department. Ryan presented a Training Evaluation Sheet so JJAG members could see data on the success of the training. Noël Bonam, DMC Coordinator, and Officer Mike Carrier facilitated the training. Ryan acknowledged Portland Police Lt. Janine Roberts for her coordination of the logistics. Recruitment of future trainers is going on now. A train the trainers class is planned for early summer.

Ned brought up concerns over transporting juveniles from a highly supervised environment and then placed in a court holding cell with little supervision. Ned explained that they are checked from time to time but jail staff feels that they're not responsible for the juveniles that are in that holding cell. Some of these kids are wound up and agitated and the situation is not good. Ned spoke of the need to address the issue and figure out how the Department of Corrections can provide some oversight.

Ryan responded that the Sheriff's transport is responsible for supervision of the juveniles while they are in the holding cells at the court houses. Ryan also agreed with Ned stating that some of the county holding cells are often times chaotic and crowded. He suggested a possible training for Sheriff Deputies monitoring holding cells. He is

now in the process of drafting an MOU with the Marshal's Office to allow inspections of court holding cells. The Marshals have been cooperative and open about what goes on and how the juveniles are supervised.

V. DMC Report – Noël Bonam, DMC Coordinator:

Noël reported on the meeting held with School Resource Officers which came from the DMC Subcommittee for Systems Improvement. Lt. Roberts sent out invitations to SROs across the state and there were about nine participants. He spoke about the purpose of the meeting and discussed some of the concerns of the SROs. Noël explained that the SROs have kids from different areas and they are dealing with multiple JCCOs and have to figure out who the JCCO is according to what area the juvenile is from. The SROs explained that when there is a change in JCCOs they are not informed so often the information the officer sends to DOC is kicked back and they are told that the JCCO is not in that region anymore without forwarding it to the right JCCO. A couple of suggestions that were made were to meet as a group with the JCCOs and have a conversation on how to make it a better system and they wanted the administrators of the JCCOs to be there, along with the administrators from the schools. Noël stated that it was a very good meeting and he is looking forward to the next meeting.

The Family research work with Muskie is moving along.

The JDAI has a new coordinator/staff person who is collaborative with us. The DMC committee has had conversations about how to actually work with the JDAI Initiator since we are all working towards the same goals. Until now this hasn't been successful but all are working toward creating a more comprehensive partnership to bring some of our committees together. The JDAI Initiator is very committed to working with disparities and not so much with disproportionality so we have to figure out some way to complement each other's work to make sure that we are all on the same page. A meeting is planned for June. Next week the DMC will be meeting with the Congolese, Sudanese and Somali Communities and hopefully will be able to do presentations on the juvenile justice system with these communities this summer.

The Youth Advisory Council met again and has asked for a training session to understand their rights and the juvenile justice system.

Noel and Kathryn will be attending the Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference in D.C. next month.

A Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice certificate program offered at Georgetown University in September however due to financial constraints we are not be able to send the required team this year but hope to participate next year.

Ryan added information regarding the meeting with the SROs explaining a request from them to have the DOC re-coordinate how the JCCOs are assigned and if it would be possible to assign one to a specific school district as opposed to town boundaries.

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Ryan stated that there were other suggestions and he plans to move it along up the ladder to get approval for the requested meeting..

VI. Juvenile Justice Specialist Report – Kathryn McGloin:

Kathryn announced that she has will hire a new Office Assistant, Jason Carey. Jason has many computer skills and will be able to care for our website and the annual report. Our summer intern is a Bates College student and will be starting on May 28, 2013.

The contracts for the four new programs we awarded are going slowly as DOC has changed the contracting process.

Kathryn also brought up a question that Christine Thibeault had asked relating to our dwindling funding the potential of soliciting funding or applying for grants. The Administrative and Financial Services, office said that it would be a conflict of interest if some of the donors could potentially be contractors. The director did not know about taking on other grants and will check with the AG and Department of Purchases.

VII. Committee/Department Reports:

Christine Thibeault – Legislative Committee. Christine stated that she would like to get potential youth members together, who are thinking about joining the JJAG to take them out for pizza to talk about what the JJAG does before they make their decision to become JJAG Members. Christine also stated that if they do decide to stay with us we would provide them with mentors. The invitation to become a mentor was extended to all JJAG members.

Christine explained her role as a member to the potential youth and new members of the JJAG and talked about being on the Legislative Committee to track bills that come up regarding juvenile justice.

Christine then apologized to the members for not attending the Legislative Hearing on the **Bill (#?)** that the JJAG discussed at the last meeting, due to a mix-up on her part. Rep. Plummer stated that he would not take any action on this until he heard from the JJAG. When Christine spoke with John Pelletier regarding the JJAG's issue of allowing attorneys to appear by mail, if the kids do not appear they won't be placed on conditions of release, John Pelletier stated that he hadn't thought about that when the bill was drafted, but stated that the committee has agreed to make an amendment to their proposal based on the JJAG's concerns. Christine will attend the work session.

Former Associate Commissioner, Barry Stoodley, also added that the Young Adult Offender program was voted unanimous as "Ought to Pass," and that Mountain View will continue to run as a juvenile facility.

Barry Stoodley – Department of Corrections. Barry announced that Dr. Fitzpatrick

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has now taken over all responsibilities as the Associate Commissioner but he will still be doing some work according to arrangements he has with the Commissioner.

The Summit on Assets Getting Outcomes was well attended. Senator King and former Governor Baldacci attended along with their wives and it was a very special event. Positive Youth Outcomes is moving forward and can be incorporated into juvenile corrections work thanks to the JJAG. PBS which is a JABG funded program and has now been endorsed by the Commissioner and he is moving it into adult facilities in collaboration with the Performance Based Standards Learning Institute. They are adapting this for adult facilities starting with Charleston. The Pathways to Healing Conference of April 8th at the Augusta at the Civic Center was a powerful presentation by a number of people. Barry spoke of a strong presentation of a mother and daughter team from Pennsylvania on the impact of domestic abuse.

Jonathan Shapiro - Public Safety – Sgt. Shapiro stated that a meeting to explore if the Community Review Board would be useful for DMC in the Portland area is planned. A committee of JJAG and others are working to address policy issues regarding high school violence and the mental health safety net for kids in crisis to eliminate school violence. There has been a sharp increase in juveniles in crisis in York County and stated that there is quite a problem regarding several suicides and a couple of attempted suicides. Jonathan will be looking at how serious the problem really is and what steps can be taken. The Restorative Justice Institute of Maine has a website where we may find information on the June 4th “Think Tank” in Brunswick. Presenters are international experts in restorative justice.

Ned Chester – thanked the JJAG for sending him to the seminar presented by Dr. Vincent Felitti. He gave a brief overview of the seminar and stated that he was the only attorney in attendance, the others were all psychiatrists. Ned spoke about kids and trauma and how it affects them as adults. They developed a check list listing incidents of adverse childhood experiences and charted them. Ned will send the article out to Kathryn so she can e-mail it out to JJAG members.

Carla mentioned that she attended a training last year which focused on minorities who suffer an enormous amount of trauma as compared to non-minorities.

While waiting for lunch, Kathryn gave a brief update on the JDAI site visit in Oregon and highlighted some of the information on how their system worked.

- Theirs is a county system.
- They have a system reform committee with police, providers and judges run it.
- There is school system involvement
- They have a Juvenile code and youth Law Policies which are MOUs. High risk kids to go Mental Health and not Corrections.
- Police have a juvenile services division
- Police don't know what to do about girls. (Topic came up about EPIY)
- They constantly update their Risk Assessment Instrument.
- Heard from Jim Payne that JDAI in Maine was able to break down Black

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African American or African. (Erica from Muskie - Not true – Can't separate the two.)

- Oregon uses a pre-screening tool for the community - like Risk Assessment.
- Decisions are made by risk level rather than the kid's crime.
- Use of risk, needs and responsiveness
- They have a program called "Safe Streets." Police have a list of kids who are high risk and they can remove those kids from bad situations.
- Cards to police listing detainable offenses.
- Quote from JDAI director, "If they stay long enough, they've stayed too long."
- Bumper sticker idea from the Director "Don't blame police, train police."
- He uses three R's, relevance, repetition, and relationships, in making the kids better.

The JJAG members continued with a staff Focus Group.

Paul asked for introductions and thanked the staff for their participation. He and Kathryn explained to the staff why this focus group was important to our JJAG Three Year Plan in order to comply with the OJJDP.

The JJAG members asked questions and staff responded to those questions. The JJAG also asked if any staff had any comments or concerns. The members discussed some of their concerns.

VIII. De-brief & Wrap-up:

- Concerns were expressed about the juveniles and legal representation.
- More focus on treatment and not on court system.
- JCCOs not trained in court process.
- Real range of understanding between prosecutors and defenders.
- Feeling a little different this year than last year.
- Feels like we are going backwards.
- High turnover in positions.
- New staffing matrix has had an effect on residents.

XIX. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

The next meeting will be May 22, 2013 at Criminal Justice Academy, Vassalboro, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.